

# The Titusville Communicator



*Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club*

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"Dedicated to the Promotion and Preservation of Amateur Radio in Central Florida, Across the United States, Around the Globe, and Throughout the Universe"

## TARC JULY SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

The first half of 2024 is in the history books, and I'm going to put it in the "win" column. I think we had a pretty good six months with lots of things accomplished, projects both started and completed, and some yet to be completed. We've dipped our toes into the formal contesting world and have learned some valuable lessons along the way which will help us improve in the future. Thanks to all for the ongoing support and effort you all put into TARC to be successful. It's truly a situation where you get out of it, is what you put into it. There's always

events and projects going on, suggestions to make for new events and projects, and plenty of room for those willing to step up and be the cheerleader for projects!

Personally, it's been a challenging month because of the passing and burial of my step-father in California, and having to deal with that sad event. I'm afraid I got caught up in the Delta Airlines debacle, with four (4) consecutive flight cancellations which caused me to miss the July membership meeting. Thanks to all who stepped up and took over on short notice.

On the subject of Amateur Radio operations, I can report that I've

had a pretty active month ~ mostly owing to upgrading my stealth vertical antenna using my pool enclosure as a ground plane that allows me to actually operate on all bands with decent coverage. It's "stealth" feature is entirely due to several cans of tree-matching spray paint so it blends in. I actually was able to casually participate in a "rag chew" for nearly 40 minutes on 20 meters, which is something I haven't done in decades. Looking forward to more of that in the coming future.

Looking forward to completing more events and projects in the coming months!

73

## Have you checked out our TARC website?

By Steve Schindler—NA4SA

By now you've hopefully seen that the new TARC website is operational. What started out as just doing some updates has turned into a major project. Marty (KJ4LQX) and I spent the large part of a weekend activating the new hosting service and getting the domain names pointed to that location. That was not without challenges.

Unfortunately we were not able to move the entire content over from the old site intact, but because of the previous issues encountered, we decided that a fresh start was not necessarily a bad thing.

This involved learning how to use WordPress (the "content management system"), finding a theme (the "look and feel") for the new site, and planning the details of the website content.

The initial version of the new web site

was completed over the Fourth of July weekend. The design goals are to create a website that is inviting to prospective members and is easy to maintain.

There's more work to be done including additional information on the home page and the About page. Updating the Bylaws section of About page is pending revision of our bylaws (which is currently in-work). I'm currently going through the Club's "archives" and will be updating the History section on the About page. If anyone is aware of significant club events after 1990, please contact me.

There are a couple of additional pages under consideration and it would be helpful to get multiple inputs on how best to serve our members. Thank you in advance for ideas and suggestions on how to make it work better for you.

Please take a look at the website and send me your questions and comments (schinds@gmail.com or the group Facebook page). I'm also looking for pictures (that are not already on Facebook) of club activities and member projects.

Finally, I'm looking for someone to be my backup for keeping the website updated. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out with website maintenance and updates.

We definitely need several folks that can jump in and keep it up to date.

If you don't have this already bookmarked: [www.k4ksc.com](http://www.k4ksc.com) or [www.titusvillearc.com](http://www.titusvillearc.com) will get you to our website.

Steve—NA4SA

[schinds@gmail.com](mailto:schinds@gmail.com)

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### *What's Happening:*

- TARC May Projects
- Field Day 2024
- Upcoming Events and Projects

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**TARC MONTHLY  
MEETING IS AT  
7:00 PM ON TUES-  
DAY, AUGUST  
27TH 2024**

## MyGo2 Antenna Review by Roy Merritt – N4RKM

Like a lot of folks that visited the Orlando Hamcation, I too was bedazzled by all the neat and new toys for ham radio operators to play with. Ever on the lookout for portable operating stuff, I happened upon the TN07 Engineering booth, a small firm located in rural Tennessee. I met and chatted with, Bob - W4AZM, particularly about this new My Go2 antenna he was selling. It sounded like just the thing I am most interested in and they even had a picture of a guy operating his Icom 705 using this antenna from his boat. That got my attention right off.

Having seen and read all the typical sales stuff on it and seeing Bob's hand written note from a user regarding the SWR results he got, I was impressed, but skeptical. When asking about what kind of ground radials it required, Bob replied that it does not use ground radials and seeing my obvious next question, he went on to say that this antenna was a shunt fed antenna and does not use ground radials. Nodding my head politely, as if I knew what a shunt fed antenna was, I asked about the price. Wow! They are not inexpensive. But having said that, the hook was set and I knew I wanted one. I took a flyer, thanked Bob and moved on to the next bright and shiny toy as this needed some more thought and investigation.

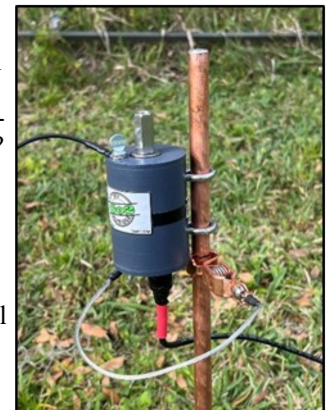
When I got home from Hamcation and recovered my senses, I immediately set out to learn what I could about shunt fed antennas. To be honest, there is a good bit of information available, but a lot of it was engineering and technical stuff that kinda went well over my head. I did watch a couple of reviews on YouTube, and was finally convinced I needed one for myself to try. So, I bit the bullet and bought one. Below is the kit in all its glory:

The kit comes in a very rugged, black canvas roll-up style of bag with pockets to hold all the components. For storage and transport, it neatly rolls up into a tidy little bundle with a Velcro strap to keep it closed. The layout of the components was well thought-out keeping everything easily accessible making it easy to find everything you need to quickly and efficiently set the antenna up. Speaking of set up, setup time is probably about 10 minutes start to finish. It will probably take you longer to find a suitable place to set up than to actually set the antenna up. As I stated earlier, set up took me only about 10 minutes. Let's look at my deployment in my back yard where I performed all the testing:



The first picture on the left is the base shunt unit. The next picture shows the shunt unit installed onto the ground stake with the antenna feed line installed (bottom) and shunt antenna cable that runs parallel to the other ground stake. There is a 17' telescoping antenna that screws onto the top of the shunt unit to complete the antenna installation. Kinda "easy peasy" as they say. But, will it live up to its hype?

I connected the unit to my RigExpert AA-230-ZOOM tester to see what kind of SWR I would get and to my surprise, I had a relatively flat SWR across ALL the bands from 160m to 10mtrs. With the exception of 10mtrs and 160mtrs, I never got an SWR above 2.0 with most being well below 1.5. Having said that, I did get an SWR on all bands below 2.0. The 10mtr and 160mtr bands were the only two where the meter crept above 2.0. All these measurements of course were taken without the benefit of a tuner so to say I am impressed is an understatement. So, how does it do on the air?



I connected the My Go2 antenna to my Icom 705 and with the kind help of Tom Fuller, KN4GLO, we had a good conversation on the Mosquito net frequency. We did try 20mtr and 15mtr as well, but despite the bands being noisy and me only running 10 watts, we still managed a contact. However, I still wanted to try something a bit further afield so I set up a Win-Link email and looked for a Winlink server. I managed a successful digital connection with a server in Texas and one in Tennessee. My final thoughts are that I love this antenna. For now, it is my portable, all band, Go2 antenna. It is not cheap and will set you back a good \$500, but so far, out of all my portable antennas that work on all bands and is quick and easy to set up, this, in my opinion is the clear winner. Eventually, I will try a few wire solutions using the Chameleon kit I have, but for now, My Go2 antenna is in my go bag (metaphorically speaking if I had one.)

**President**

Paul Fee—N6PDF  
(321) 264-8985 Cell/TXT  
paul.n6pdf@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Michael Elledge—KC4JEM  
elledge54@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Stephanie Merritt—K4MVO  
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**

Sally Fuller—KN4HPX  
sful1974@gmail.com

Titusville Amateur Radio Club  
July 23, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:01pm, by: VP Mike Elledge, KC4JEM, who also led us in the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**President's Welcome:** Mike explained that Paul's return flight to Florida had been delayed. He also announced that the next Board of Director's meeting will be held on July 28, 2024.

**Members in attendance** introduced themselves, and we had several visitors, and Charles, KF4LNA, signed-up to become a new member. **A Quorum was Present**

**The Last Meeting Minutes** Approved Unanimously as Read by Stephanie, K4MVO.

**The Treasurer's Report** was Approved Unanimously, as presented by Sally, KN4HPX..

**Old Business:**

Repeater Status: Dave, KY4F, stated that all repeaters are up and running fine, and the solar system for the 146.775, was working fine too.  
Steve, NA4SA, is working on the club Website, and mentioned that our club's Digital Logo needs updating.

**New Business:**

Steve, NA4SA, provided a list of upcoming activities that we do as a club which included:

Our Pot Luck Dinner in October,  
November is our Election of Officers,  
December is our holiday/Christmas dinner at Dixie Crossroads,  
International Lighthouse on the Air in August  
And the possibility of 3-2-1 Day, on March 21, a Special Event, to recognize Ozzie, N4SCY(SK)and his contributions to TARC and community.

**A motion** was made, seconded, and **approved unanimously:**

"We should try to publish our Club Newsletter a week after our monthly meeting, so members are made aware of upcoming club activities in a timely manner."

This information will be shared with our current Newsletter Editor, Paul, N6PDF. And members were reminded to submit their input to Paul in a timely manner.

**Program:** Barry, N4NMF, gave us a thoroughly interesting and entertaining Introduction to, and demonstration of EchoLink. He even checked into a net up north during his presentation.

**50/50 tickets:** Our new member Charles, KF4LNA, won \$36.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:10 pm, Followed by a Social Hour, and members drifted out around 8:30 - 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary

Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO